

Message Text

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ACTION STR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02

H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 TAR-02 TRSE-00 PRS-01

OMB-01 OIC-04 IO-13 EA-11 RSR-01 /174 W

----- 127048

O R 032245Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1098

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CECLA, GATT, VE

SUBJ: VENEZUELA, CECLA, AND THE GATT

REF: A) STATE 174325; B) CARACAS 7316; C) BRASILIA 5687;

D) MEXICO 6562.

1. IT BEING IMPOSSIBLE AS ALWAYS TO TRANSACT ALMOST ANY BUSINESS ON WEEKEND IN VENEZUELA, WE SOUGHT APPOINTMENT MONDAY MORNING AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET WITH JESUS FERNANDEZ, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS SECTION OF FOREIGN COMMERCE INSTITUTE, LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON. COUNSELOR EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN ABOUT CONFLICT BETWEEN CECLA DECLARATION AND COMPROMISE REACHED IN GENEVA PREPARATORY MEETING, AND HOPE VENEZUELA WOULD SUPPORT COMPROMISE REACHED AT GENEVA.

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2. FERNANDEZ SAID VENEZUELA WAS NOT AT ALL SATISFIED WITH AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT GENEVA, AND BELIEVES TOKYO GATT MEETING MUST CONSIDER NEW IDEAS. HE SAID VENEZUELA DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE NEW INITIATIVES OF ITS OWN, BUT WILL JOIN WITH OTHER ANDEAN PACT AND CECLA COUNTRIES. SPECIFICALLY IT BELIEVES TARIFF CONCESSIONS ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH TO STIMULATE EXPORTS IN MANY LDCS, AND THAT CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN TO FINANCING, PORT CONSTRUCTION, MERCHANT MARINE, ETC. VENEZUELA VIEWS TOKYO MEETING AS ONE OF A SERIES IN WHICH THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK OUT BETTER ACCORD.

3. PROSPECTS FOR ANY ACTIVE VENEZUELAN SUPPORT OF U.S. POSITION THUS ARE NOT GOOD. VENEZUELA OBVIOUSLY WISHES TO CONTINUE LEADING ROLE AMONG LDC COUNTRIES, AND IS THEREBY CONSTRAINED TO STAY OUT AHEAD OF PACK OF LATIN AMERICAN AND OTHER LDC COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, DELEGATION TO TOKYO IS HEADED BY LEOPOLDO DIAS BRUZUAL, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN COMMERCE INSTITUTE, WHO IS NOT GENERALLY FRIENDLY TO UNITED STATES, AND OTHER MEMBERS ARE HIS SUBORDINATES.

4. DEPENDING UPON PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH AMBASSADOR MALMGREN IN SCCN CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND IN TOKYO BEFORE GATT MEETING, AND UPON COURSE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN TOKYO MEETING, WE MAY BE ABLE TO MODERATE VENEZUELAN POSITION, OR LEAD THEM TO TAKE A PASSIVE ROLE OR TACITLY ACCEPT SOME OF OUR POINTS. MALMGREN HAD STRONG EFFECT ON THEIR GATT VIEWS IN HIS TALKS HERE IN NOVEMBER 1972 AND LATER WITH ANTONIO CASAS GONZALEZ OF CORDIPLAN IN WASHINGTON. AS REPORTED IN SEPTTEL INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN COMMERCE DELEGATES TO SEPTEMBER 4-5 SCCN CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON WILL RETURN HERE SEPTEMBER 6 TO BRIEF GATT DELEGATION. VENEZUELAN GATT DELEGATION IS TO ARRIVE IN TOKYO SEPTEMBER 10.
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